

Office of Public Instruction

Kristine Thatcher

Licensure Program Manager

Kthatcher2@mt.gov

406-444-2580

The Elements of Qualifying for Montana Licensure

Overview

Today I will cover the core elements surrounding educator licensure in Montana.

My goal is to assist you in your initial assessment of an out-of-state applicant's qualifications toward meeting licensure standards.

Background of Licensure

The Board of Public Education is the governing body that has established the umbrella of requirements for Education which are found in Administrative Rules of Montana, Title 10. The specific licensure rules are in Title 10, Chapter 57.

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Definitions

- 10.57.102
 - Accredited Educator Preparation Program
 - Means “an educator preparation program at a regionally accredited college or university approved or accredited by a state board of education or a state agency.

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Definitions, Continued

- 10.57.102
 - Regionally Accredited College or University
 - Means “a college or university accredited by one of the following:
 - Middle States Association of Schools & Colleges
 - New England Association of Schools & Colleges
 - The Higher Learning Commission
 - Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
 - Southern Association of Schools & Colleges
 - Western Association of Schools & Colleges

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

A good source to check accreditation for both college/university and or an Educator Preparation Program is:

CollegeSource Online

<https://cso.collegesource.com/search/results.asp>

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Definitions, Continued

- 10.57.102
 - Year of Teaching Experience
 - Means “employment at any level within a state accredited P-12 school system . . . As a licensed instructional staff for the equivalent of at least .5 FTE for the duration of a school year.” Experience prior to licensure does not count.

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Definitions, Continued

- 10.57.102
 - Year of Administrative Experience
 - Means “employment at any level within a state accredited P-12 school system . . . As a licensed administrator for the equivalent of at least .5 full-time employee for the duration of a school year.” Experience prior to licensure does not count.

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Teaching

- 10.57.410 Class 2 Standard
 - Bachelor's Degree from a Regionally Accredited College or University
 - Completion of an Accredited Professional Educator Preparation Program (EPP) Including Supervised Teaching (transcript)

Alternative Route

- Verified Completion of an EPP
- A Current, Standard, Unrestricted Out-of-State License, and
- Five Years of Successful Teaching Experience From an Out-of-State Accredited P-12 School Employer

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Teaching

- 10.57.411 Class 1 Professional

The requirements are the same as for a Class 2 license, plus:

- A Master's Degree from a Regionally Accredited College or University in Education or an Endorsable Area, and
- Three Years of Teaching Experience at a State Accredited P-12 School

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Administrative

- 10.57.413 Class 3 Administrative

An Applicant Must Qualify for an Appropriately Endorsed Class 1, 2 or 5 License to Teach in the School in Which They Would be an Administrator and Qualify per Specific Area of Endorsement as Outlined in ARM 10.57.414 Through 10.57.419.

- 10.57.414 Class 3, Superintendent
- 10.57.415 Class 3, Elementary Principal
- 10.57.416 Class 3, Secondary Principal
- 10.57.417 Class 3, K-12 Principal
- 10.57.418 Class 3, Supervisor
- 10.57.419 Class 3, Special Education Supervisor

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Administrative

- 10.57.413 Class 3 Administrative

Alternative Route

- Verification of an Educator Preparation Program
- Currently Licensed in Another State at Same Level Applying For in Montana
- Five Years of Successful Administrative Experience From an Out-of-State Accredited P-12 School Employer

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

NOTE:

- Administrative Applicants That Have Not Completed a Preparation Program for Their Requested Area of Endorsement Do Not Qualify for a Class 5 License, But May Complete Their Needed Program Through an Internship . . . Internships Must be Completed Through a Montana Institution ([10.55.602](#))
- Administrative Applicants That Only Need to Complete the Montana Specific Course Work Qualify for a Class 5 License

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

10.57.424 Class 5 Provisional

- May be Utilized for Completion of an Accredited Educator Preparation Program
- May be Utilized to Add an Endorsement
- May be Utilized by an Out-of-State Applicant With an Expired License That Needs to Complete Six Semester Credits
- May be Utilized by an Administrator that Needs to Complete Only Montana Specific Course Work

Note: Applicants May be Issued Only One Class 5 Provisional License Per Teaching License, Per Administrator License or Per Specialist License

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

- [10.57.425](#) Class 5 Provisional Elementary
- [10.57.426](#) Class 5 Provisional Secondary K-12, and P-12 Special Education
- [10.57.427](#) Class 5 Provisional Superintendent
- [10.57.428](#) Class 5 Elementary Principal
- [10.57.429](#) Class 5 Secondary Principal
- [10.57.430](#) Class 5 K-12 Principal
- [10.57.431](#) Class 5 Supervisor
- [10.57.432](#) Class 5 Specialist

Administrative Rules of Montana, 10.57

Specialist License

10.57.434 School Psychologist

10.57.435 School Counselor

Reminders

Licensure Applicants are Required to Complete:

- An Introduction to Indian Education for All (free, online, two-hour course)
- Montana Required Praxis
- Fingerprint Background Check Process Must be Completed for OPI/Licensure
- Applicant's Apply Online
 - The Applicant Should Periodically Log Back Into the Licensure System and Check Their "Deficiency" Screen to See What Documents OPI is Waiting On

Thank You!

Licensure Contact Information:
Bekki Flanagan and Lorri Weiss

- Cert@mt.gov
- (406) 444-3150

Kristine Thatcher

- Kthatcher2@mt.gov
- (406) 444-2580